

Steve Hammond sworn in as new Councilmember for King County Council District 9



Councilmember Steve Hammond is sworn in by King County District Court Judge Linda Thompson (left). His wife, Jennifer (center), is standing by his side.

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Open House

Please come meet Councilmember Steve Hammond

Meeting times: 7 pm to 8 pm

**Tuesday, July 8**  
Enumclaw High School Library  
226 Semanski Street South,  
Enumclaw

**Wednesday, July 9**  
Auburn High School Cafeteria  
800 4th Street Northeast,  
Auburn

**Tuesday, July 15**  
Fairwood Library  
17009 140<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE,  
Renton

**Wednesday, July 16**  
Kent School District Admin.  
Offices  
12033 SE 256th Street,  
Kent



Steve Hammond, Councilmember  
Metropolitan King County Council, District 9  
516 Third Avenue, Room 1200  
Seattle, WA 98104  
(206) 296-1009, [steve.hammond@metrokc.gov](mailto:steve.hammond@metrokc.gov)

Open House Meetings

- Tuesday, July 8 Enumclaw
- Wednesday, July 9 Auburn
- Tuesday, July 15 Renton
- Wednesday, July 16 Kent

See inside for details

COMMUNITY UPDATE



Metropolitan King County Council District Nine



Steve Hammond

June 2003

Dear Friend,

I am deeply honored to have been appointed to serve as your representative on the Metropolitan King County Council. I have long realized that decisions by our county government officials greatly affect the everyday lives of people in our communities.

At the present time, our county government is working on a number of pressing issues of great importance to all of us. Because of the slow economy, the County Council will again be facing difficult decisions as we deliberate next year's budget. Public safety continues to be a number one priority for most citizens, and must be properly funded. Solutions to our transportation and traffic problems must be addressed. An appropriate balance between environmental protection and the rights of property owners must be maintained.

Councilman Kent Pullen was a champion for our district on these issues. For me, the death of Councilman Kent Pullen was the loss of a valued and generous friend. For our community it was the loss of a respected and esteemed leader. As we move forward through this time of transition, your thoughts and input are extremely important. Working together we can insure positive changes for the future.

Sincerely,

Steve Hammond, Councilmember  
Metropolitan King County Council, District 9  
516 Third Avenue, Room 1200  
Seattle, WA 98104  
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# Your Input Needed on County Issues

## Budget

King County continues to face difficult budget decisions. The growing gap caused by reduced revenues in a slow economy coupled with a continued demand for expenditures forced the Council to make \$41 million in cuts to the 2002 general fund budget and \$53 million in the 2003 budget. Even with past cuts and this new tax, there are projected shortfalls of \$24 million for both 2004 and 2005.

In May, County voters were asked to approve a new levy to fund parks. Although the levy passed in King County, voters in District 9 rejected the levy by a 54% “no” vote. This is consistent with the comments I hear from many of my friends, neighbors, and community leaders. They feel that new taxes cannot always be the answer to a balanced budget. Instead, county government must carefully prioritize and use taxpayer dollars wisely, in order to protect basic services such as public safety. In the months ahead, there will be several hearings regarding the 2004 County budget. I hope you will share your thoughts and priorities with me.

## Regional Transportation Investment District

Our region continues to experience severe traffic congestion. In an effort to provide more local control of road projects and to relieve congestion in the Puget Sound area, the state legislature has authorized the formation of a Re-

gional Transportation Investment District (RTID). Presently the members of the RTID executive board are selecting projects and preparing a funding package. They are also discussing the appropriate time to place the final proposal on



## Continued -- Regional Transportation Investment District

the ballot for voter approval. You can find more information by accessing the RTID webpage at <http://www.rtid.dst.wa.us/>.

I am following this process carefully. Many people with whom I have spoken want to be assured that the selected projects in South King County will relieve congestion and will be funded to completion.

## Critical Areas Ordinance

The Departments of Development and Environmental Services (DDES), Natural Resources and Parks (DNRP), and Transportation (KCDOT) are working on proposed updates to King County’s environmental and stormwater regulations. This legislation is referred to as the Critical Areas Ordinance (CAO).

Recently, county executive staff held a series of public meetings throughout King County to gather input from citizens regarding the CAO. At the meetings held in southeast King County, the overriding policy concern voiced by many of those attending was the credibility of the “best available science” standard that is being used as the basis for these policy changes. Specifically, citizens are concerned with proposed regulations that would increase sensitive

## Continued -- Critical Areas Ordinance

area buffers, retain 65 percent of property in native vegetation or open space, and require farmers to keep a grass buffer between their fields and any streams.

I have lived in King County’s District Nine for over 25 years, and I have owned a small hobby farm in the Enumclaw area since 1988. It has been my experience that most property owners are good stewards of their land. We all understand the importance of protecting the environment. However, we have to find a balance that does not place an overwhelming burden on property owners. For that reason, I worked closely with Councilman Kent Pullen to organize property owners so that they would have a stronger voice in the shaping of these new policies.



After listening to citizen input, a second public review draft is being prepared. It is expected to be friendlier to agriculture and to have a more balanced point of view. Upon receiving the second draft, the County Council will hold its own hearings on the CAO. I urge you to follow this process closely and share your thoughts with me.

*I believe that it is essential to good representation to maintain an open dialog with you. I look forward to hearing your input on the issues briefly discussed in this newsletter. I hope you will also feel free to contact me with your thoughts and concerns on any other issue of importance to you. My contact numbers are listed in the box on the left. I look forward to hearing from you.*

## Please let me hear from you

### Steve Hammond

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**King County**